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NEWS — EVENTS

NEW DATE: 5th Annual PRIDEfest to take place on Winchester Town Common June 12

June 9, 2025 . 4:22 PM — 1 min read

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice:

On Thursday, June 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Winchester will ho
Annual PRIDEFest on the Town Common, bringing together stude

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families, and community members for an afternoon of celebration, visibility, and solidarity in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

This family-friendly event invites the public for an afternoon of music, art, education, resource-sharing, and community connections.

Originally envisioned by a Winchester middle school student, PRIDEfest participating organizations include student groups, the Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) from McCall Middle School, Spectrum from Winchester High School, and youth groups from the Winchester Unitarian Society.

Much of this year's organizing has been handled by WHS Senior Evelyn LaMont as an intern with the Network for Social Justice, which has supported the event each year.

Many community groups join annually in PRIDEfest, including the Winchester Public Library, Wright-Locke Farm, and Winchester Farmer's Market.

Others making return appearances at PRIDEfest 2025 will be drag performer Maxine Harrison as emcee and DJ, and the Kona Ice truck! Both were favorites for people of all ages in 2024.

In addition to performing, Maxine Harrison will again team up with Tony Leone of NAGLY, the North Shore Alliance of GLBTQ youth, to lead a conversation with middle and high school students on the Town Common after the event.

PRIDEfest is made possible with generous support from sponsors including Winchester Community Music School, Winchester Cooperative Bank, Modern Legacy Law Group based in Melrose, and faith organizations, Crawford Memorial Church and the First Congreg Church.

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The Network is also appreciative of support from town entities, including the Select Board, the Department of Public Works, and Winchester Recreation, making the event possible and accessible with the use of Access Trax mats purchased last year through an ARPA grant.

All are welcome to join in affirming and celebrating Winchester's LGBTQ+ community at this event. It's not too late to participate or sponsor!

More information can be found here and on the Network for Social Justice website.

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Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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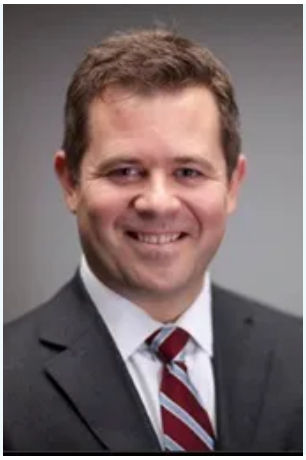

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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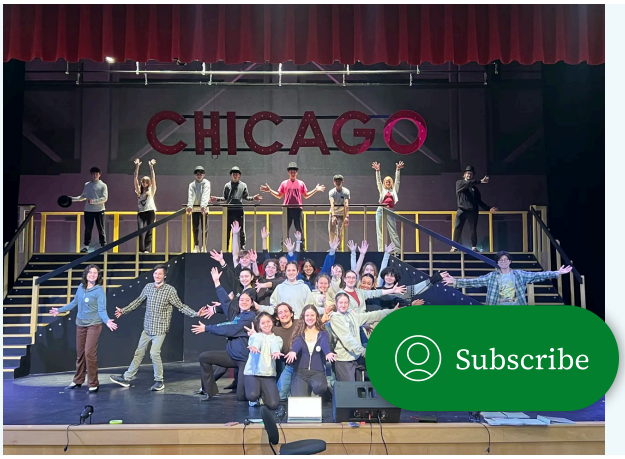

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

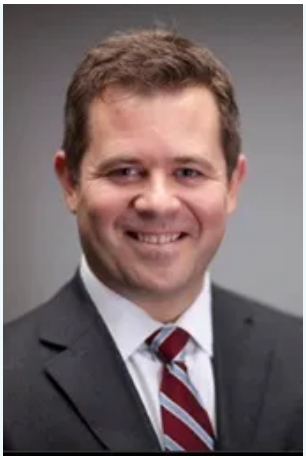
RIPLEY PRESENTS
SYLDASON: YOU ARE WELCOME HERE
MARCH 13, 2026
7:30 PM
Sylvie Zakarian, marimba and Daniela Tosic, voice
Featuring folk and classical works by Gomidas, Hovhaness, Minkin, Radan, Tantchev, and Tassone.
fcc-winchester.com/ripleychapel

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026



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